GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6043
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Shortage of Cow Dung
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are not rearing animals on a large scale due to mechanisation of agriculture leading to inadequate availability of cow dung required for agriculture and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether it has been proved scientifically that cow dung manure is better option than chemical fertilizers for both crops and soil; and
(c) if so, the details of the various schemes formulated by the Government to encourage farmers to rear cattles on a large scale so that not only milk and its by-products but adequate quantum of organic fertilizers used in agriculture may also be obtained?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)
(a) Yes, Madam. Due to mechanisation male bovine population has declined from 103.21 million to 84.01 million between 18th (2007) and 19th (2012) Livestock Censuses. However, animals in milk have increased from 77.05 million to 80.52 million during the same period. This indicate radical shift of farmers from rearing of animals for draft animal power to rearing of animals for milk production. Availability of cow dung is not estimated under Integrated Sample Survey being conducted by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

(b) As per the information provided by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, there is no harmful effect of chemical fertilizers with recommended doses and judicious use. Government is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manures e.g cow dung, bio-fertilizers, etc) of plant nutrient management to sustain good soil health and higher crop productivity.

(c) In order to increase milk production and productivity, Government of India is implementing the following programmes which inter alia also includes setting up of vermi compost units, biogas plants etc: a) National Programme for Bovine Breeding; b) Rashtriya Gokul Mission (Indigenous Breeds); c) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme and d) National Dairy Plan-I. Funds have also been released for setting up of two National Kamdhenu Breeding Centres for encouraging farmers to rear Indigenous Cattle and Buffaloes.

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